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January 17, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft, Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

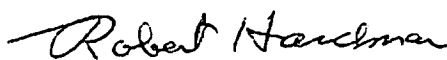
Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

I am in support of the settlement that was reached between Microsoft and the Department of Justice in early November. It is my opinion that the best interests of all American's would be well served by a swift and fair conclusion to this suit. After three long years of litigation, my hope for a swift end is long dead; however, this settlement will at least end this suit fairly.

While Microsoft has had to make some rather harsh concessions with this settlement, such as regulating their licensing agreements with computer makers, they have agreed to its terms. Microsoft realizes it is better for them to make concessions and kick-start an economic recovery than be fully vindicated after a few more years in court. The fact remains that our economy is floundering, and Microsoft is one of America's largest employers; to continue this suit would be a very imprudent decision, especially at this time.

I am pleased that an end seems to be in sight; I urge you to continue supporting this settlement so that we can finally stop this debacle. Do not allow America to ring in another year with this heinous litigation hanging over our heads. Thank you for your time in this case, and for your diligent consideration of my position.

Sincerely,

  
Robert Hardman

cc: Senator Strom Thurmond